

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

for Funeral Home Staff Removal from Location of Death or Location of Deceased



Personal protective equipment for postmortem care personnel

Personal protective equipment (PPE): Prior to contact with the body, postmortem care personnel must wear PPE consisting of impervious gown with full sleeve coverage, eye protection (e.g., face shield and goggles), N95 facemask, and double surgical gloves. Additional PPE may be required per facility guidelines. Donning and doffing PPE should be done in accordance with CDC Guidelines.

If Hospital, Coroner or Facility Removal – Funeral Home Removal Personnel will inspect for Completion of Facility Preparation as listed above and confirm identity of deceased. If field death released from place of death – Funeral Home Personnel will perform steps 1-11 and transport to funeral home to prepare for burial.

Funeral Guidance

There is currently no known risk associated with being in the same room at a funeral or visitation service with the body of someone who died of COVID-19. A funeral or visitation service can be held for a person who has died of COVID-19 as long as strict adherence to local and state orders are held.

Points to be emphasized in all Funeral Communications

- Based on the State of Louisiana and City of New Orleans' mandates on social gatherings, only the immediate (household of the deceased) family can be in attendance. Extended family and friends can watch online. Live Streaming and social media platforms can be used to share private size limited gatherings, which includes a wake, memorial service or other gatherings.

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Funeral Guidance continued...

- People should not touch the body of someone who has died as a result of COVID-19. Older people and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness and should strongly consider staying at home. Activities, such as kissing, washing, and shrouding should be avoided before, during, and after the body has been prepared.
- Immediate burial or direct cremation with memorial services to follow at later dates are additional option that can be offered. Families can set a tentative date of memorial (around June 1) remaining flexible to change with the progression of this situation.
- Funeral providers can continue to perform services to facilitate burials and cremations as well as suggest and help families to use this time to plan services that best memorialize the individual to be hosted at a later date.
- Clergy can provide additional spiritual guidance, be available to perform rites in for immediate events, as well as help families to use this time to plan services that best memorialize the individual to be hosted at a later date.
- Funeral Homes will provide expedited services for immediate burial and direct cremation with the assistance of doctors for signatures, coroners for permits, and the state for regulation.